

BLOOMINGTON HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

HATE INCIDENTS REPORT

January 1, 2019 – Current

****Warning: this report includes offensive language to provide an accurate portrayal of these incidents.****

In August, 1990, the Bloomington Common Council unanimously approved an amendment to the Bloomington Human Rights Ordinance which gave the Bloomington Human Rights Commission the explicit authority to collect data and issue reports on hate incidents within our community. We accept reports from police departments, individuals, groups and the media. We also accept anonymous reports. Our goal is not to investigate these incidents, as we do not have the authority, training or resources to conduct that type of investigation. Rather, our goals are to serve as a referral resource and sounding board for victims, to work with community groups to coordinate responses to hate incidents when appropriate and to make our community more aware of the prevalence of hate incidents by issuing these periodic reports.

Please note, not all of these incidents constitute crimes, but all do indicate apparent bias.

- In January, 2019, we saw media accounts of verbal harassment on campus. A white man has been seen on campus yelling comments at African Americans such as "There's a majority here. Do you understand me?" He's also used the word "nigger." An African American woman told the IDS that she was the only black person of about 50 people waiting for the bus when the man approached her. She said it was almost like the crowd parted the way for him to come up to talk to her. She said no one warned her or talked to him, and no one asked if she was ok after. Campus officials investigated.
- In January, 2019, we saw media accounts of hateful graffiti being found on the restroom stalls at Bloomington High School North. Someone wrote on several restroom stall walls, "KKK" and "Kill all Jews." Custodians painted over the graffiti. Police investigated. Later that same month, we saw two additional media accounts of hateful, anti-Semitic graffiti written in black pen in the men's room at North. BHSN identified a suspect.

- In January, 2019, we received a report online about a property manager calling tenants "Mexican trash."
- In March, 2019, we received a report about an assault that happened in late February. An African American man reported he had been subjected to racial slurs and when he responded verbally, he was physically attacked. His attacker was arrested and charges are pending.
- In May, 2019, we received a report that two parking meters were vandalized with swastikas and the words "white power." The City removed the graffiti.
- In August, 2019, we received reports of numerous KKK flyers being distributed around town. BPD investigated.
- In August, 2019, we received a report from a woman who saw a man downtown verbally harassing passersby, yelling "Are we in Berkeley?" to two woman who were holding hands and "Asian, Asian" to an Asian man. She also reported the incident to BPD.
- In August, 2019, we received a report the "KKK" had been painted on a highway overpass. BPS investigated. The graffiti was painted over.
- In August, 2019, we received a report that a swastika had been painted on a sign at the entrance of a neighborhood. Police investigated.
- In August, 2019, we received a report that a swastika had been painted on a public sign. The caller also reported the vandalism to BPD.
- In September, 2019, we received a report that Delores Huerta and her daughter Alicia were subjected to verbal slurs that questioned their presence on campus. Delores Huerta, a noted labor leader and civil rights activist who co-founded the Farmworkers Association with Cesar Chavez, was in Bloomington to give the keynote address as part of National Hispanic Heritage Month.